

Coins

Round 2: The Garrett auction action starts boiling all over again

By Roger Boye

CURRENT PRICE records for several rare coins may be shattered Wednesday and Thursday when the second part of the astounding Garrett collection is auctioned in Los Angeles.

Headlining the extravaganza will be the sale of an 1804 silver dollar, which some experts predict will be the first coin to sell for more than \$1 million at public auction. Only 15 such dollars are known to exist.

The current price record for a single coin was set last November when a collector paid \$725,000 for a Brasher doubloon during the first of four planned Garrett-collection auctions.

This week's sale also will include what may be the finest collection of extremely rare "private gold coins" ever assembled. Such pieces were minted in the mid-1800s by companies that mined gold in California and elsewhere (private coinage became illegal in 1864).

T. Harrison Garrett, a Baltimore millionaire and railroad executive, assembled the collection during the last half of the 19th Century, and his two sons later added several pieces.

AGAIN THIS year, you can have your old coins and currency appraised free of charge during the annual show

of the Morton Grove Coin Club.

Several knowledgeable coin buffs will examine numismatic treasures from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday in the Holiday Inn, 5300 W. Touhy Av., Skokie. But the show's organizers ask, "No more than five items per family, please."

In addition, several coin dealers will be buying and selling coins at the show, and some items will be on display.

IF YOUR collection specialty is tokens, medals, old checks, or antique coin-operated machines, you might enjoy the National Collectibles Exposition at the O'Hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont. More than 150 dealers will be selling those and other keepsakes from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. next Sunday. Admission fee is \$2.50.

During the show, 1,200 medals will be auctioned, including a rare relic made in 1871 from part of a bell that survived the Chicago fire. The medal — worth about \$125 — depicts an angel flying amid the smoke and a Phoenix rising from the flames.

The auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and will be conducted by the well-known medallic firm of Johnson and Jensen of Danbury, Conn.